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AUTHOR Austin, Bobby William, Ed.
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ABSTRACT

This report of the National Task Force on African-American Men and Boys is the beginning of an approach to repair society's breaches and restore the streets to safety. The Task Force, headed by Andrew J. Young and established in 1994, conceived its mission as one of reclamation. The Task Force made 61 specific recommendations, and three general recommendations. The first of the general recommendations is that a national work group be established to continue the work of the Task Force. The second is that a philanthropic organization be established that would support all of the major recommendations made by the Task Force, and the third is that a National Conversation on Race Relations be facilitated. The specific recommendations are developed around the following themes: (1) "Polis," a comprehensive idea of the values, manners, morals, and etiquette needed to restructure public life; (2) civic storytelling that honors the ordinary hero who creates public kinship; (3) grassroots civic leadership; (4) creation of the common good; (5) restoring community institutions; and (6) civic dialogue and the exchange of ideas and opinions. Seven appendixes present statements by Task Force leaders, the historical background of the Task Force, references, selected speeches, responses of women to the Task Force, and a discussion of the state of human development. (Contains 12 tables, 6 unnumbered charts, and 18 references.) (SLD)

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